

1 1. (currently amended) A method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database  
2 management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database  
3 management system, the method comprising the steps of:

4 making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries  
5 and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that ~~may have~~ is capable of having a  
6 plurality of members; and

7 deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality  
8 thereof.

1 2. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 3. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the  
3 set.

1 4. (original) The method set forth in claim 3 wherein:

2 The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each  
3 member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are  
4 separated by a separator character.

1 5. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of  
3 members in the set.

1 6. (original) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2 the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an  
3 element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular  
4 member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the  
5 absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding  
6 element.

1 7. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
2 in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the  
3 set are derived are time values.

1 8. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:  
2 in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of  
3 the set are derived are location values.

1 25. (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs a  
3 method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an  
4 aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the method  
5 comprising the steps of:  
6 making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries  
7 and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that ~~may have~~ is capable of having  
8 a plurality of members; and  
9 deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality  
10 thereof.

1 26. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:  
2 the method further comprises the step of  
3 deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 27. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:  
2 the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the  
3 set.

1 28. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in that:  
2 The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each  
3 member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are  
4 separated by a separator character.

1 29. (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2           the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of  
3 members in the set.

1   **30.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in that:

2           the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an  
3 element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular  
4 member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the  
5 absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding  
6 element.

1   **31.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2           in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the  
3 set are derived are time values.

1   **32.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2           in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the  
3 set are derived are location values.